

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

**United States Embassy
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago**

Bimonthly Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 5

September-October 2005

Our Bimonthly Newsletter includes websites from the Electronic Documentation Service, a mechanism for identifying and delivering authoritative but often hard-to-locate and soon-out-of-print reports by a number of different government agencies and private think tanks.

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DEMOCRACY

INDEPENDENT MEDIA DEVELOPMENT ABROAD: CHALLENGES EXIST IN IMPLEMENTING U.S. EFFORTS AND MEASURING RESULTS [GAO-05-803]

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). July 29, 2005

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05803.pdf>

Independent media development, led by the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), supports the national security goal of developing sustainable democracies around the world. Independent media institutions play a role in supporting commerce, improving public health efforts, reducing corruption, and providing civic education.

U.S. CONGRESS - AFRICAN-AMERICANS

Congressional Research Service (via Federation of American Scientists)

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL30378.pdf>

A record number of 43 black or African-American Members serve in the 109th Congress; 42 in the House of Representatives, one in the Senate. There have been 117 black Members of Congress: 112 elected to the House and five to the Senate. The majority of the black Members (90) have been Democrats; the rest (27) have been Republicans.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

A BREAK IN THE CLOUDS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN 2005

Inter-American Dialogue; Sol. M. Linowitz Forum. July 2005

<http://www.thedialogue.org/publications/2005/summer/plenary.pdf>

This report, which reflects the consensus of the Inter-American Dialogue's members, notes that the impressive growth of Latin America's economies in 2004 and 2005 may be short-lived without substantial policy and institutional reform. Its central message is that Latin America's future depends mostly on whether the region's governments take the measures necessary to make their economies and societies stronger, more resilient, and more just. Such measures include promoting increased exports and foreign investment, sharply boosting savings and tax revenues, investing more in infrastructure, improving the quality of education, and directly attacking the region's pervasive inequality. The authors urge that the report be read in tandem with the report of the Dialogue's special task force on U.S. policy, Agenda for the Americas 2005, released in March.

[http://www.thedialogue.org/publications/2005/winter/agenda_2005.pdf]. That report proposed a series of initiatives to restore significant priority to Latin America and the Caribbean in Washington's foreign policy agenda - in the interests of both the region and the United States.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

United States International Trade Commission

<http://www.usitc.gov/tradeshifts/default.htm>

Shifts in U.S. Merchandise Trade 2004, an annual compendium of data and analysis examining changes in trade with key U.S. partners and in crucial U.S. industries, was released today by the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC). The ITC, an independent, nonpartisan, factfinding federal agency, released the information in a web-based format that focuses on reasons for key shifts in trade, provides data by country and commodity, and can be searched by country or commodity sector.

NAFTA - ECONOMIC EFFECTS

National Association of Manufacturers

http://www.nam.org/s_nam/bin.asp?TrackID=&SID=1&DID=234717&CID=46&VID=2

A comprehensive analysis of the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) shows that it accounts for only 10 percent of the U.S. global trade deficit in manufactured goods, and was not a significant factor in the huge loss of U.S. manufacturing jobs during the 2001-2003 manufacturing downturn.

OIL-FOR-FOOD PROGRAM

United Nations Independent Inquiry Committee

<http://www.iic-offp.org/documents/Third%20Interim%20Report.pdf>

Issued by the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme, on 8 August 2005.

POLICIES THAT DISTORT WORLD AGRICULTURAL TRADE: PREVALENCE AND MAGNITUDE

Congressional Budget Office. August 2005

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/66xx/doc6614/08-22-Doha.pdf>

This Congressional Budget Office (CBO) paper, which responds to part of a request by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, presents statistics on policies around the world that distort agricultural trade. Such policies and the talks to liberalize them fall into three major categories: (1) market access - policies that restrict or regulate imports; (2) domestic support - domestic subsidies and other forms of support to domestic producers; and (3) export subsidies.

WORLD RESOURCES 2005 -- THE WEALTH OF THE POOR: MANAGING ECOSYSTEMS TO FIGHT POVERTY

World Resources Institute. August 2005

http://pdf.wri.org/wrr05_full.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Published by the World Resources Institute in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program, United Nations Environment Program, and World Bank, World Resources 2005 is the 11th in a series of biennial reports on global environment and governance issues published since 1984. The authors notes that much of what the report calls for is captured in the Millennium Development Goals, adopted by the United Nations in 2000. Building on this, the World Resources 2005 report shows how important pro-poor management of ecosystems is to attaining these goals. It presents a wealth of examples that demonstrate how nations can support a bottom-up approach to rural growth that begins naturally with the assets the poor already possess.

A 28-page guide to World Resources 2005, designed as a quick reference to the book for journalists, is available at http://pdf.wri.org/worldresources_2005_journalist_guide.pdf

EDUCATION

BULLYING - SCHOOLS

National Center for Education Statistics

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005310>

Using data from the 2001 School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), this report examines the prevalence and nature of bullying as reported by students ages 12 through 18 in relation to student characteristics, school characteristics, and criminal victimization. In addition, the report explores other behaviors that were reported by the bullied student, such as fear, avoidance behavior, weapon carrying, and academic grades. This report examines student reports of being bullied by direct means only, by indirect means only, and by both direct and indirect means.

EDUCATION POLICY

Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Faculty Research Working Paper Series

<http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP05-043?OpenDocument>

This paper examines revealed parent preferences for their children's education using a unique data set that includes the number of parent requests for individual elementary school teachers along with information on teacher attributes including principal reports of teacher characteristics that are typically unobservable. We find that, on average, parents strongly prefer teachers that principals describe as good at promoting student satisfaction and place relatively less value on a teacher's ability to raise standardized math or reading achievement. These aggregate effects, however, mask striking differences across family demographics. Families in higher poverty schools strongly value student achievement and are essentially indifferent to the principal's report of a teacher's ability to promote student satisfaction. The results are reversed for families in higher-income schools.

EDUCATION REFORM

MRDC

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/412/execsum.html>

Now operating in more than 70 schools in nine districts across the country, First Things First (FTF) seeks to improve low-performing schools by strengthening relationships between teachers and students and by making classes more engaging and rigorous. FTF was initially launched in Kansas City, Kansas, and subsequently tested in 12 middle schools and high schools in four additional districts through the Scaling Up First Things First Demonstration, a five-year research and demonstration project supported by the Institute of Education Sciences in the U.S. Department of Education.... This report, the last of four produced by MDRC, describes the implementation and effects of the program model in these five districts, all serving high proportions of minority and economically disadvantaged students.

ENVIRONMENT

CDC RELEASES EXTENSIVE SURVEY OF AMERICANS' EXPOSURE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICALS

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/3rd/>

The Third National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals, released recently by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), shows a significant decline in exposure to secondhand smoke and continued decreases in children's blood lead levels. The report also suggests the need for more research into health effects of exposure to low levels of cadmium.

ENERGY--UNITED STATES--STATISTICS

Fuel Economy

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/fetrends.htm>

EPA is releasing its annual report, 'Light-Duty Automotive Technology and Fuel Economy Trends: 1975 Through 2005.' The report provides data on the fuel economy and performance characteristics of light-duty vehicles (cars, vans, sports utility vehicles (SUVs), and pickup trucks) for model years 1975 through 2005. Since 1997 fuel economy has been relatively constant, ranging from 20.6 to 21.0 miles per gallon (mpg). Model year 2005 vehicles are estimated to average 21.0 mpg. This is 0.2 mpg higher than 2004, but five percent below the fleet-average fuel economy peak value of 22.1 mpg achieved in 1987.

NEONATES - POLLUTION

Environmental Working Group

<http://www.ewg.org/reports/bodyburden2/execsumm.php>

In a study spearheaded by the Environmental Working Group (EWG) in collaboration with Commonwealth, researchers at two major laboratories found an average of 200 industrial chemicals and pollutants in umbilical cord blood from 10 babies born in August and September of 2004 in U.S. hospitals. Tests revealed a total of 287 chemicals in the group. The umbilical cord blood of these 10 children, collected by Red Cross after the cord was cut, harbored pesticides, consumer product ingredients, and wastes from burning coal, gasoline, and garbage.

GLOBAL ISSUES

ADOLESCENTS - DRUG AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

<http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k5/prevention/prevention.htm>

Based on SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health in 2003, most youths have been exposed to some kind of substance abuse prevention message - whether having seen or heard an alcohol or drug prevention message or talked with a parent about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use.

ALCOHOL ADVERTISING

Pew Charitable Trusts

http://www.pewtrusts.org/pdf/CAMY_Report_070505.pdf

The alcohol industry can do a better job shielding America's underage youth from alcohol ads and still direct its advertising to young, legal-age drinkers, according to a white paper released today by the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY) at Georgetown University.

ALCOHOL USE - GUIDE

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (National Institutes of Health)

<http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/Practitioner/guide.pdf>

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has released a new guide for health care practitioners to help them identify and care for patients with heavy drinking and alcohol use disorders. Helping Patients Who Drink Too Much: A Clinician's Guide is now available free online and in print, with a [pocket version](#) included.

GANG THREATS

National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association

http://www.hawaii.edu/hivandaids/National_Gang_Threat_Assessment_2005.pdf

The pervasiveness of gangs throughout society is undeniable. They incite fear and violence within our communities. Gangs threaten our schools, our children, and our homes. Gangs today are more sophisticated and flagrant in their use of violence and intimidation tactics. As they migrate across the country, they bring with them drugs, weapons, and criminal activity. Acceptance of the problem and joint community and law enforcement responses are our best defense.

GANG VIOLENCE

Justice Policy Institute

<http://www.justicepolicy.org/article.php?id=528>

According to a new report from the Justice Policy Institute, despite a rash of sensationalized cases surrounding gang violence, the phenomenon actually decreased over 70 percent from 1994-2003. In Ganging Up on Communities, researchers put many of the current concerns about rising gang crime into context, and analyze the need, and the impact of additional federal laws to address the problem.

WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

<http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/research/0,1015,sid%253D1012%2526cid%253D86756,00.html>

During the next five years, industry executives will come to long for the relative calm of what seemed at the time to be the technological and regulatory turmoil of the late 1990s. Recent advances in wireless technology, such as the 802.xx family of protocols and video compression, along with increased bandwidth for traditional voice services, are creating the potential for wireless to disrupt wireline in voice and data markets. These innovations are gradually increasing the bandwidth available throughout the wireless infrastructure without compromising the potential for mobility. By minimizing the tradeoff between bandwidth and mobility, innovations in wireless are setting the stage for widespread and bona fide disruption. But technological innovation can only set the stage. The drama that actually plays out will depend upon the commercialization strategies chosen by specific players.

WOMEN - EMPLOYMENT

Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation

<http://www.bpwusa.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageid=4505>

While women have made progress in several areas, some numbers are changing much too slowly. The wage gap has narrowed by only a half a penny a year for the past 40 years. The gap between median earnings of full-time, year-round workers widened last year, with women's earnings currently 76% of men's, down from 77% in 2004. At

this rate, it will take another 40 years for women to reach wage parity with men, and over the course of a working lifetime, the average woman loses approximately \$523,000 due to the wage gap. 101 Facts on the Status of Workingwomen gathers facts on the status of women in the labor force, the wage gap, women entrepreneurs, women in the Fortune 500 & 1000, women in the government, women and higher education, women's buying power, women and philanthropy, women and families, women and care giving, domestic violence and the workplace, women and retirement, and women's health.

HIV/AIDS

HIV AND NATIONAL SECURITY: WHERE ARE THE LINKS?

Laurie Garrett

Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). July 2005

http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/HIV_National_Security.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

The report examines how the HIV/AIDS pandemic is affecting the security of states throughout the world as it weakens economies, government and social structures, and military and police forces. Authored by a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and CFR Senior Fellow, the report finds that states with high rates of HIV infection in their productive labor forces and uniformed services have managed to remain intact, from the village level on up, through a plethora of coping mechanisms. However, many of these nations are "coping" with HIV while also experiencing massive poverty, tuberculosis, drug-resistant malaria, regional conflicts, and a host of other serious challenges. In addition, the HIV epidemic is contributing to social alienation and could provide areas of operation for outside terrorist forces.

HIV PREVENTION

Health Affairs

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/24/4/915>

The numbers show that rates of new HIV infections have not greatly diminished over the past five years. In citing this reality as substantiation for the assertion that the efficacy of current HIV prevention strategies has likely stagnated, the authors of this paper highlight the renewed urgency in allocating scarce public health dollars toward strategies that the evidence shows are most cost-effective in terms of infections prevented, rather than those that, although politically expedient, have limited potential for success. The authors apply principles of cost-benefit analysis to provide policymakers with the evidentiary basis for a system of rational resource allocation.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE - AIDS

American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR)

http://www.amfar.org/binary-data/AMFAR_PUBLICATION/download_file/38.pdf

Gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence, is a key factor in the growing HIV epidemic among women and girls. Violence linked to HIV risk and infection includes domestic or partner violence, sexual coercion, sex trafficking, and rape, all of which increase vulnerability to HIV infection."

LAW ENFORCEMENT / SECURITY / ILLEGAL DRUGS

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice

<http://www.ncjrs.org/html/ojjdp/209736/index.html>

This Report describes delinquency and status offense cases handled between 1985 and 2000 by U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction. Courts with juvenile jurisdiction may handle a variety of matters, including child abuse and neglect, traffic violations, child support, and adoptions. This Report focuses on cases involving juveniles charged with law violations (delinquency or status offenses).

LAW VS. WAR: COMPETING APPROACHES TO FIGHTING TERRORISM

Shawn Boyne, Michael German, and Paul R. Pillar

Introduction by Dallas D. Owens

United States Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute (SSI). July 2005

<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ssi/pdf/PUB613.pdf>

In three papers, the authors address one of the fundamental assumptions underlying the conduct of the War on Terrorism, the nature of the enemy and whether perpetrators of terrorist activities are criminals or soldiers (combatants). Although the United States recognizes that terrorist acts are certainly illegal, it has, in many ways, chosen to treat perpetrators as combatants. By contrast, much of the world (including many traditional U.S. allies) has opted for a purely legalistic approach. The papers were presented at a February 2005 conference -- "Beyond the U.S. War on Terrorism: Comparing Domestic Legal Remedies to an International Dilemma" - sponsored by the University of Virginia School of Law, in cooperation with the Strategic Studies Institute (SSI).

MARIJUANA - PUBLIC POLICY

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)

http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=5513

NORML believes there is nothing to be gained by exaggerating claims of marijuana's harms. On the contrary, by overstating marijuana's potential risk, America's policy-makers and law enforcement community undermine their credibility and ability to effectively educate the public of the legitimate harms associated with more dangerous drugs. In addition, exaggerating the dangers associated with the responsible use of marijuana results in the needless arrest of hundreds of thousands of good, productive citizens each year in this country. We cannot remain silent and permit this taxpayer-funded propaganda to occur without a challenge, and we encourage all concerned citizens to refer to this report for the truth and science regarding marijuana and marijuana policy.

THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR AND U.S. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: USAID ALLOCATION BY COUNTRY, 1998-2005

Todd Moss, David Roodman, Scott Standley

Center for Global Development. July 2005

http://www.cgdev.org/docs/WP62_1.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This working paper assesses changes in the U.S. Agency for International Development's allocation of foreign aid since 1998, in order to gauge the Global War on Terror's (GWOT) impact on funding for anti-poverty programs. The common expectation, the authors note, has been that development assistance would be used to support strategic allies in the GWOT, perhaps at the expense of anti-poverty programs. The researchers studied the changes in USAID's country allocations over 1998-2001 versus 2002-05. For each country, they also looked at such variables as: the presence of foreign terrorist groups; sharing a border with a state sponsor of terrorism; troop contribution in Iraq; and relative share of Muslim population.

OTHER

IMMIGRANTS - BIRTHS - UNITED STATES

Center for Immigration Studies

<http://www.cis.org/articles/2005/back805release.html>

A new analysis of birth records from the Center for Immigration Studies shows that immigrants (legal & illegal) accounted for a larger share of births in 2002 than in 1910, during the peak of the last great wave of immigration. The children born to immigrants are arguably the most important long-term legacy of immigration and are a key measure of its magnitude. The new report provides detailed information on births to immigrants for every state and many counties, including estimates for births to illegal aliens.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS - CITIES - UNITED STATES

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0076.html>

This working paper presents decennial census data on population totals by race (1790-1990) and by Hispanic origin (1970-1990) for large cities in the United States.

